

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of in-camera processing compression of an a still image including one or more faces as part of an acquisition process, comprising:

(a) identifying a group of pixels that correspond to a face within a digitally-acquired still image on a portable camera;

(b) generating in-camera, capturing or otherwise obtaining in-camera a collection of low resolution images including said face;

(c) tracking said face within said collection of low resolution images;

(d) determining a first processing compression portion of the image including the group of pixels based on the collection of low resolution images;

(e) (e) determining a second processing compression portion of the image other than the group of pixels; and

~~(d)~~ (f) automatically in-camera processing compressing the first processing compression portion with enhanced quality processing compared with higher-grade compression rate than the second compression processing portion to generate a processed compressed image including the face; and

(g) outputting the in-camera processed image including said face to a digital rendering device for viewing.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method of in-camera processing compression of an image as recited in claim 1, further comprising implementing said in-camera processing compression rate as adjustable image resolution.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method of in-camera processing ~~compression~~ ~~of an image~~ as recited in claim 1, said ~~higher~~ enhanced quality processing grade ~~compression rate~~ varying between a plurality of groups of pixels that correspond to a plurality of faces.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method of in-camera processing ~~compression~~ ~~of an image~~ as recited in claim 1, said ~~higher grade compression rate~~ enhanced quality processing comprising a function of one or more parameters including the relative size of the face, location of the face, exposure of the face, or total of faces detected in the image, or combinations thereof.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method of in-camera processing ~~compression~~ of ~~an~~ a still image including one or more faces as part of an acquisition process, comprising:

(a) identifying a group of pixels that correspond to a face within a digitally-acquired still image on a portable camera;

(b) generating in-camera, capturing or otherwise obtaining in-camera a collection of low resolution images including said face;

(c) tracking said face within said collection of low resolution images;

(d) determining a first processing ~~compression~~ portion of the image including the group of pixels based on the collection of low resolution images;

(e) ~~(e)~~ determining a second processing ~~compression~~ portion of the image other than the group of pixels; and

~~(d)~~ (f) automatically providing an option for in-camera processing ~~compressing~~ the first processing ~~compression~~ portion with enhanced quality processing compared with ~~higher grade compression rate than~~ the second processing ~~compression~~ portion to generate a processed ~~compressed~~ image including the face; and

(g) outputting the in-camera processed image including said face to a digital rendering device for viewing.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method of providing an option for in-camera processing ~~compression of an image~~ as recited in claim 5, wherein said option is variable based on a subjective user decision.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method of providing an option for in-camera processing ~~compression of an image~~ as recited in claim 6, further comprising determining said option as a function of one or more parameters including the relative size of the face, location of the face, exposure of the face, or total of faces detected in the image, or combinations thereof.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A computer program product encoded on one or more computer ~~One or more processor readable media storage devices having processor readable code embodied thereon, said processor readable code for programming one or more processors to perform~~ for a processor-based portable camera to carry out a method of in-camera processing ~~compression of an a still image including a face as part of an acquisition process~~, the method comprising:

(a) identifying a group of pixels that correspond to a face within a digitally-acquired still image on a portable camera;

(b) generating in-camera, capturing or otherwise obtaining in-camera a collection of low resolution images including said face;

(c) tracking said face within said collection of low resolution images;

(d) determining a first processing ~~compression~~ of the image including the group of pixels based on the collection of low resolution images;

(e) ~~(e)~~ determining a second processing ~~compression~~ portion of the image other than the group of pixels; and

~~(d)~~ (f) automatically in-camera processing ~~compressing~~ the first processing ~~compression~~ portion with enhanced quality processing compared with

higher-grade compression than the second processing ~~compression~~ portion to generate a processed ~~compressed~~ image including the face; and

(g) outputting the in-camera processed image including said face to a digital rendering device for viewing.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The computer program product ~~one or more storage devices~~ of claim 8, the method further comprising implementing said in-camera processing ~~compression rate~~ as adjustable image resolution.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The computer program product ~~one or more storage devices~~ of claim 8, said enhanced quality processing ~~higher grade compression rate~~ varying between a plurality of groups of pixels that correspond to a plurality of faces.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The computer program product ~~one or more storage devices~~ of claim 8, said enhanced quality processing ~~higher grade compression rate~~ comprising a function of one or more parameters including the relative size of the face, location of the face, exposure of the face, or total of faces detected in the image, or combinations thereof.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A computer program product encoded on one or more computer ~~One or more processor readable media storage devices having processor readable code embodied thereon, said processor readable code for programming one or more processors to perform~~ for a processor-based portable camera to carry out a method of in-camera processing ~~compression~~ of an a still image including a face as part of an acquisition process, the method comprising:

(a) identifying a group of pixels that correspond to a face within a digitally-acquired still image on a portable camera;

(b) generating in-camera, capturing or otherwise obtaining in-camera a collection of low resolution images including said face;

(c) tracking said face within said collection of low resolution images;

(d) determining a first processing ~~compression~~ portion of the image including the group of pixels based on the collection of low resolution images;

~~(e) (e)~~ determining a second processing ~~compression~~ portion of the image other than the group of pixels; and

~~(d) (f)~~ automatically providing an option for in-camera processing ~~compressing~~ the first processing ~~compression~~ portion with enhanced quality processing compared with higher-grade-compression than the second processing ~~compression~~ portion to generate a processed ~~compressed~~ image including the face; and

(g) outputting the in-camera processed image including said face to a digital rendering device for viewing.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The computer program product ~~one or more storage devices~~ of claim 12, wherein said option is variable based on a subjective user decision.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The computer program product ~~one or more storage devices~~ of claim 13, the method further comprising determining said option as a function of one or more parameters including the relative size of the face, location of the face, exposure of the face, or total of faces detected in the image, or combinations thereof.

Claim 15 (new): A method of in-camera processing as recited at claim 1, wherein said low resolution images comprise at least one subsampled version of an acquired higher resolution image.

Claim 16 (new): The computer program product of claim 8, wherein said low resolution images comprise at least one subsampled version of an acquired higher resolution image.

Claim 17 (new): A method of in-camera processing as recited at claim 1, wherein said collection of low resolution images comprises one or more thumbnail views or a contact sheet or both.

Claim 18 (new): The computer program product of claim 8, wherein said collection of low resolution images comprises one or more thumbnail views or a contact sheet or both.

Claim 19 (new): A method of in-camera processing as recited at claim 1, further comprising displaying in preview said one or more thumbnail views or said contact sheet or said collection of low resolution images including said face, or combinations thereof.

Claim 20 (new): The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises displaying in preview said one or more thumbnail views or said contact sheet or said collection of low resolution images including said face, or combinations thereof.